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4. [] Jim Lowenstein, Senate Foreign Relations Committee staff, called and said Chairman Fulbright would like him, Carl Marcy and Richard Moose to attend the Chairman's briefing by an Agency representative on the bombing of dikes in North Vietnam. They proposed 3:30 Thursday, 27 July, in room S-116 in the Capitol. Paul Walsh, Acting DDI who will do the briefing has been notified.

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5. [] Talked to Marshall Wright, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Congressional Relations, and explained that we would prefer that Mr. Abshire not attend our breakfast meeting with Senator Henry Bellmon and his group of junior Republican senators.

Mr. Wright spoke of the shambles resulting from yesterday's Senate action on the foreign aid bill and said the Administration now had three options-- a new bill in the Senate, a House bill (which the Senate would probably mutilate) or submit the entire old foreign aid bill as an amendment to the military authorization. He predicted that the second alternative, the House bill, would be the most likely prospect.

I raised the question of the Laos ceiling, remarking that we would hope to see this entire provision struck out in conference. Wright said he was not up-to-date on this but he did understand that Defense was trying to work out a deal with Chairman Hebert, House Armed Services Committee, to insert some "artful language" in the bill that would limit the effect of the ceiling. I said it seemed to us that having the ceiling struck out entirely would be far preferable since the "artful language" approach was likely to get us in trouble and cost us our credibility.

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6. [] Met with Nancy Bearg, Research Assistant, Senate Armed Services Committee, who briefed me on the highlights of Secretary Laird's testimony before the Committee yesterday on SALT.

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7. [] In the absence of Frank Slatinshek, Chief Counsel, House Armed Services Committee, I left a message with his secretary, Miss Kalinowski, reemphasizing what I had told him yesterday of our serious concern about the Laos ceiling, and our belief that every possible effort should be made in conference to strike out this provision entirely, rather than modifying it with technical changes in the language. Miss Kalinowski was aware of the problem and said that she didn't think the matter would come up for several weeks.

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